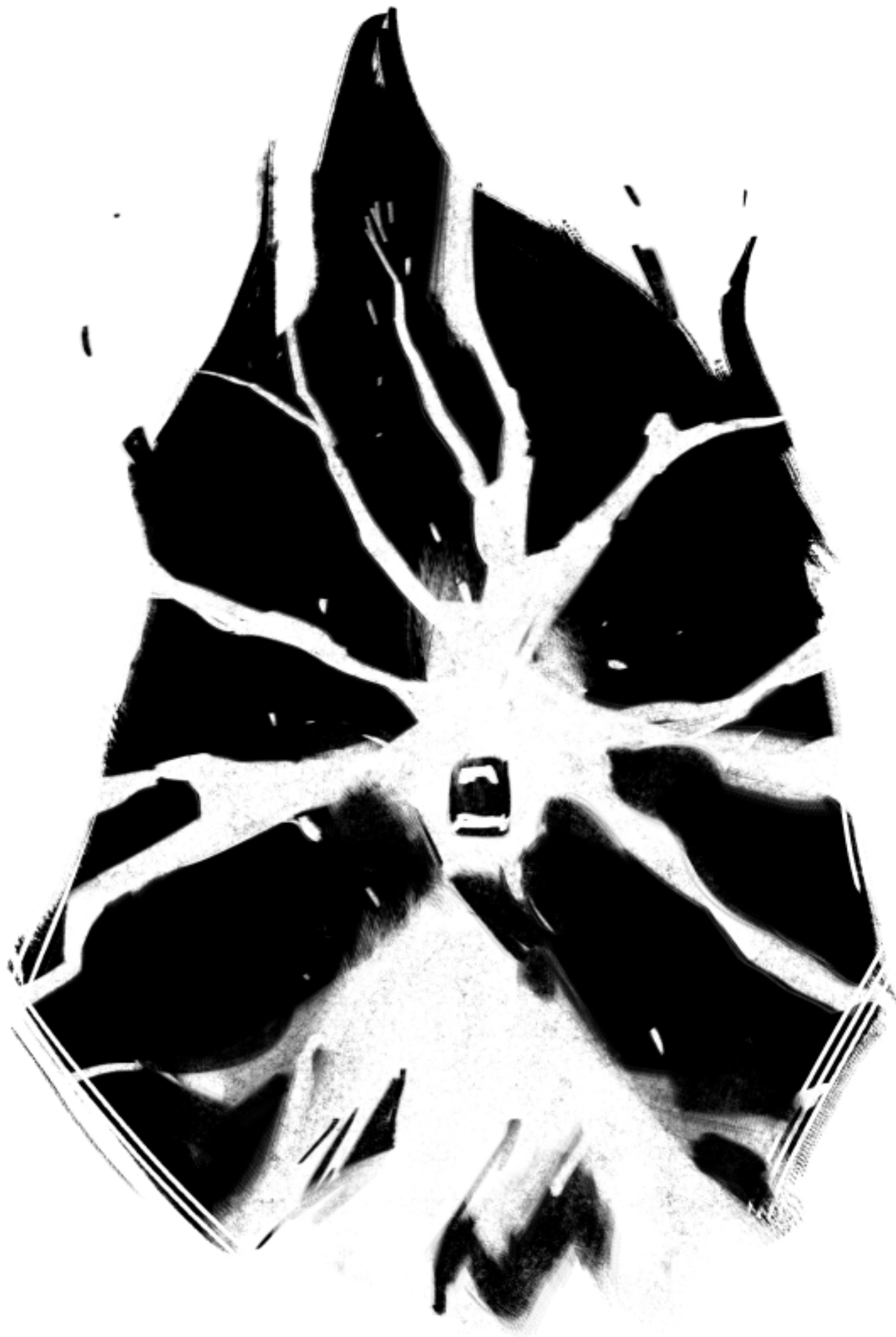


BOND BY FIRE

Chapter 7: Ashen remains



Caterina P Droguett



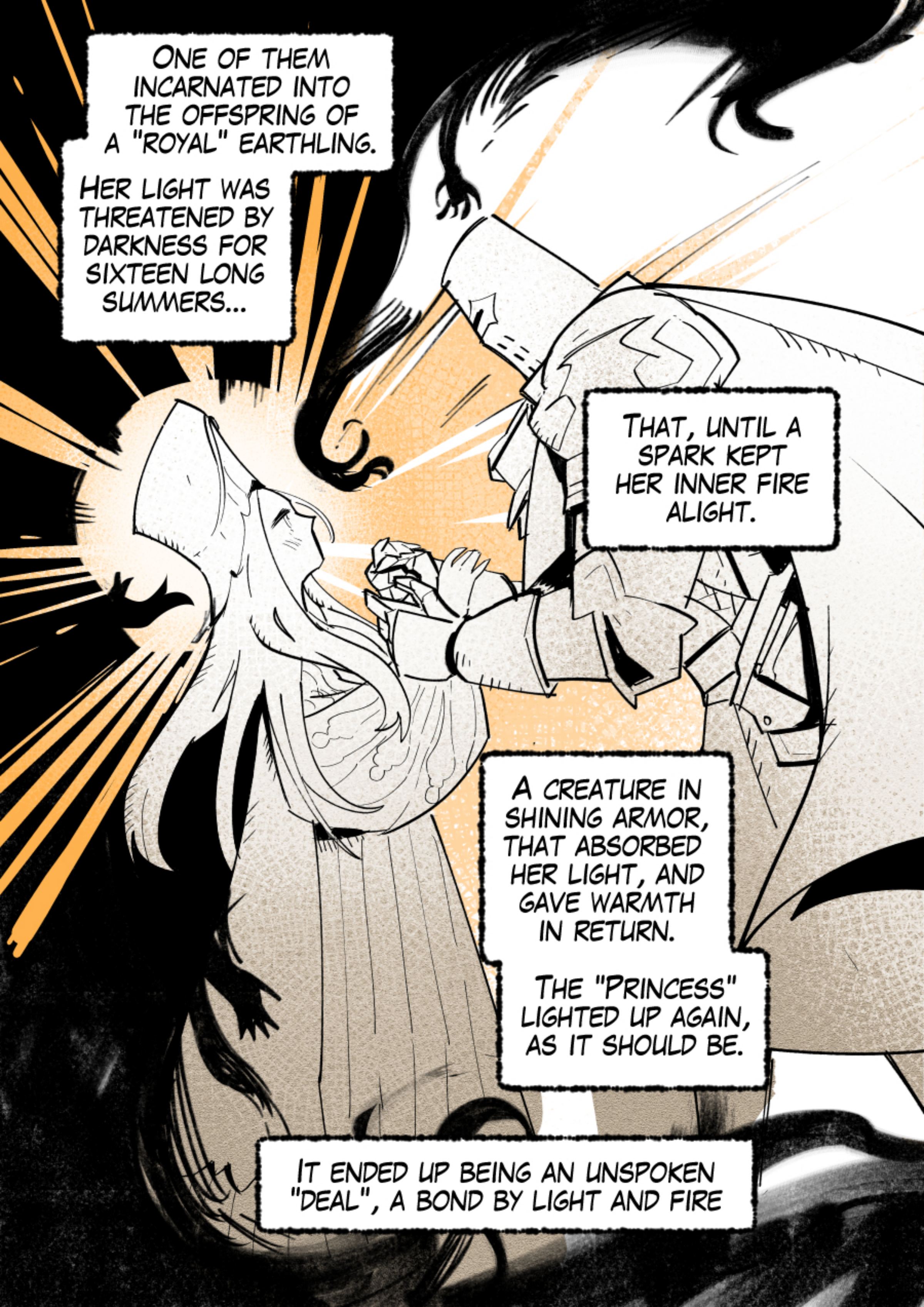
IN ITS FINAL
BREAK, LUMINO'S
FRAGMENTS SPREAD
IN THE WORLD OF WATER.

THESE FRAGMENTS WOULD
FALL ON THE BODIES OF
THE LIVING BEINGS OF
THAT PLANET



MOST OF THEM
HAVE CAME BACK
TO THE CYCLE.
AS IT SHOULD BE

SOME OF THEM
HAVE PERISHED IN
THEIR JOURNEY,
AND HAD TO
REINCARNATE TO
INITIATE,
ONCE AGAIN,
THE JOURNEY TO
REACH THE DIVINE
LIGHT OF LUMINO.



ONE OF THEM
INCARNATED INTO
THE OFFSPRING OF
A "ROYAL" EARTHLING.

HER LIGHT WAS
THREATENED BY
DARKNESS FOR
SIXTEEN LONG
SUMMERS...

THAT, UNTIL A
SPARK KEPT
HER INNER FIRE
ALIGHT.

A CREATURE IN
SHINING ARMOR,
THAT ABSORBED
HER LIGHT, AND
GAVE WARMTH
IN RETURN.

THE "PRINCESS"
LIGHTED UP AGAIN,
AS IT SHOULD BE.

IT ENDED UP BEING AN UNSPOKEN
"DEAL", A BOND BY LIGHT AND FIRE



PARADOXICALLY,
THIS CREATURE IS
A SPAWN OF TENEBRO.

A VILE AMALGAM OF
HORRORS, MADE BY
CORRUPT SOULS

MASSES CONSTITUTED
BY ROTTING CORPSES,
BLOOD AND COAL.

THEY TOO NEED THE GIFT OF LIGHT FROM LUMINO,
BECAUSE WITHOUT IT, AS ALL THE LIVING THINGS,
WILL DESCEND INTO WRATH AND MADNESS

THE MERE
EXISTENCE OF
THESE
MONSTROSITIES,
WILL END UP
BEFOGGING
THE GIFT OF
LUMINO



AND IN A LAST
ATTEMPT OF
SELF
PRESERVATION...



THEY WILL LOOK
FOR LIGHT AND
WARMTH EVEN
INTO THOSE
WHO DON'T
POSSESS IT

THAT FRAGMENT MUST COME BACK!
BACK TO THE CYCLE!

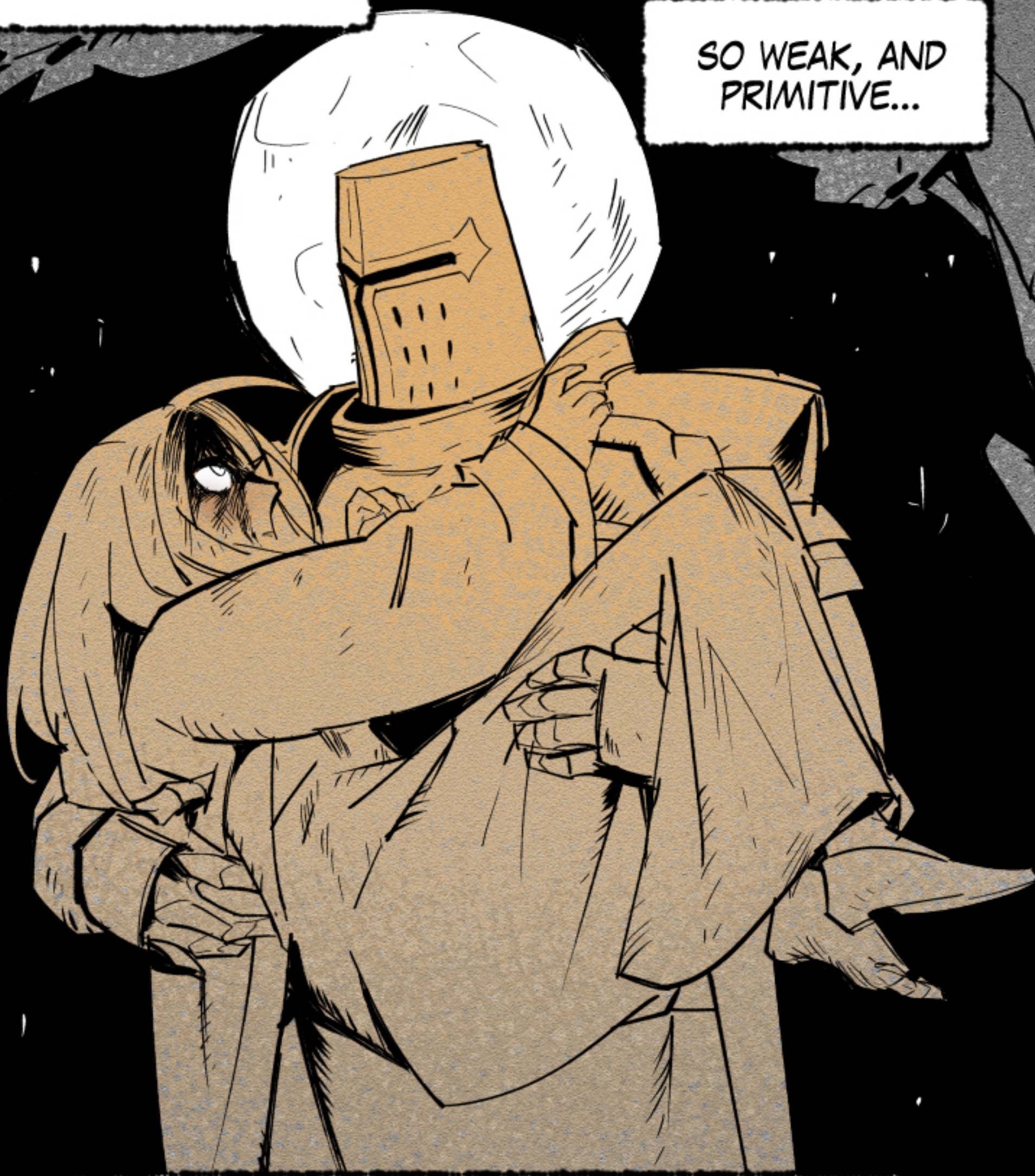
SO WE CAN COMPLETE THIS CYCLE OF
LIGHT, AND LUMINO GIVE BACK, ONCE AGAIN,
THE ALTRUISTIC GIFT OF LIFE TO THE UNIVERSE.



BUT OH... MY LIGHT...

THE EARTHLINGS ARE SO
SUSCEPTIBLE...

SO WEAK, AND
PRIMITIVE...



THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT BREAD CRUMBLES
FROM TENEBRO THEMSELF, JUST TO SATIATE
THEIR HUNGER FOR ONE NIGHT...



SO... DO YOU THINK
WE CAN STILL FIND
HER? SHE MIGHT
HAVE GONE FAR AWAY
ALREADY

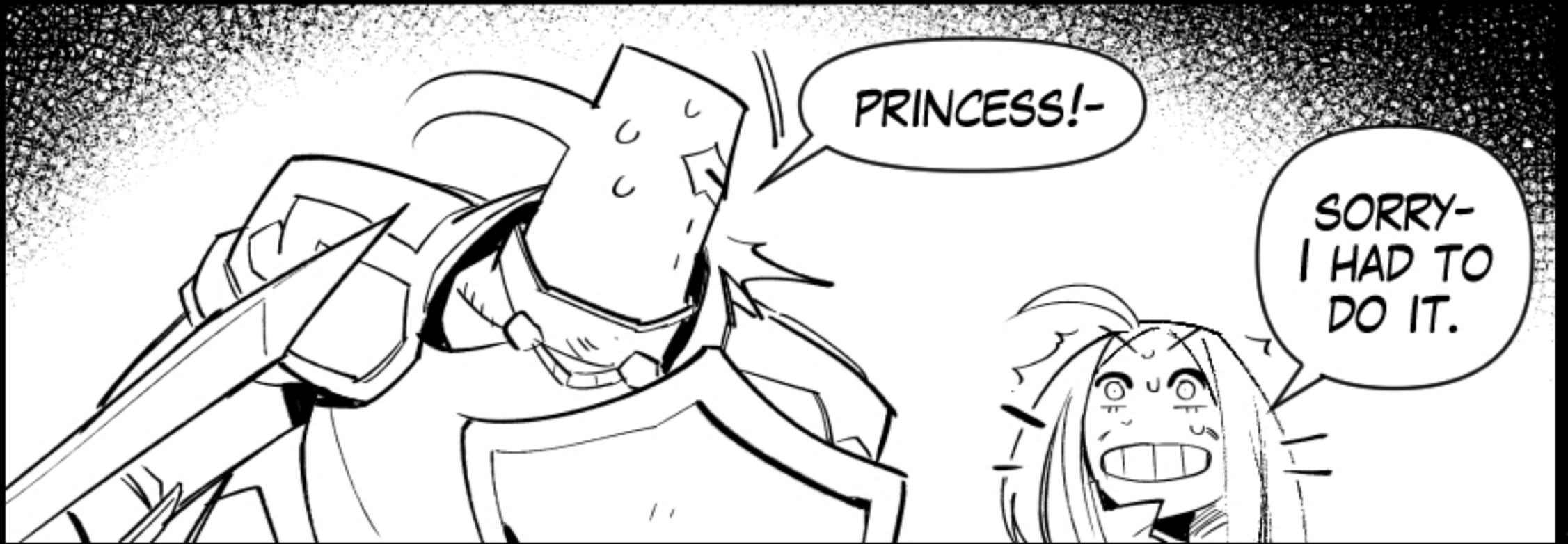
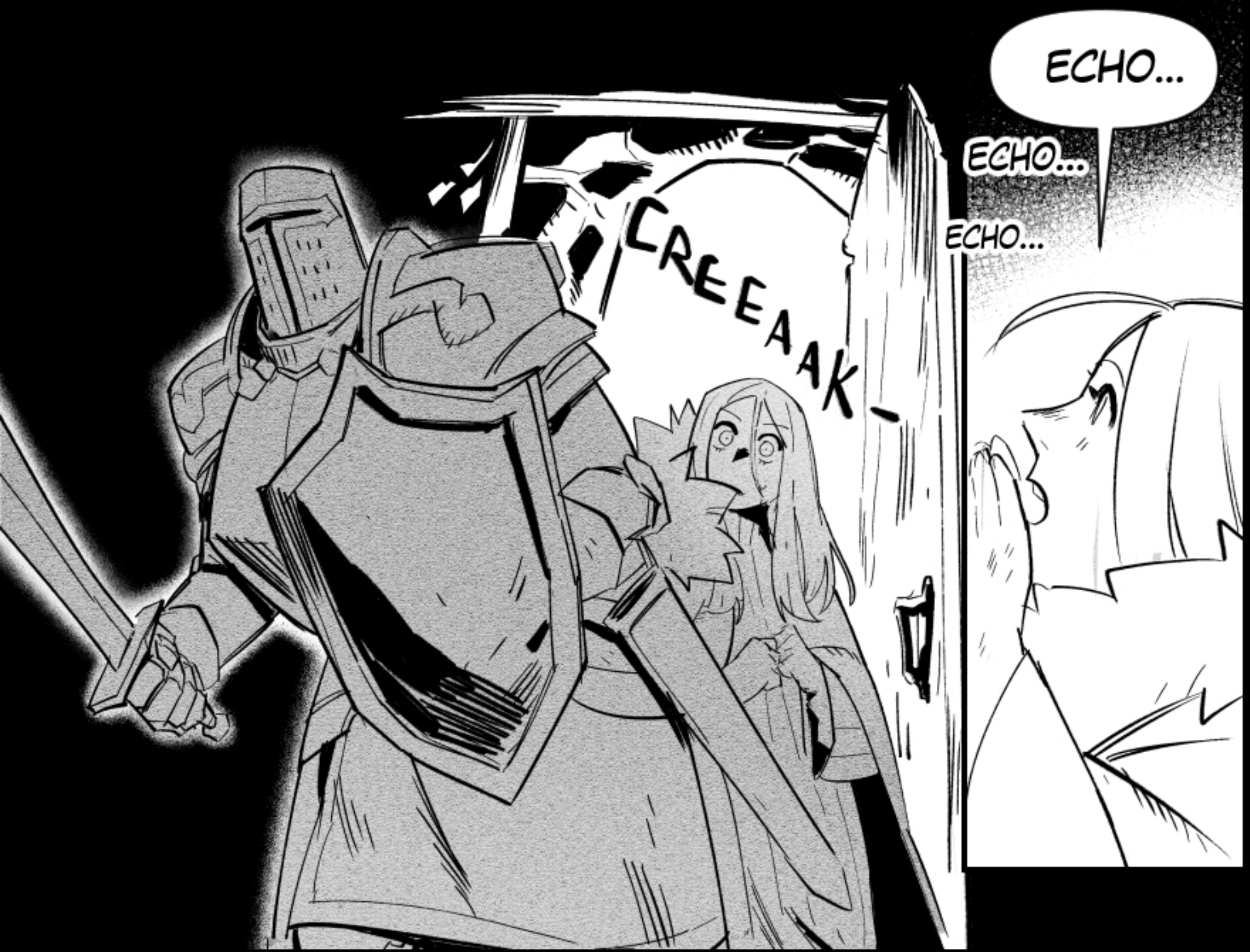
WE'LL TAKE THE CASTLE AS
A REFERENCE. I STILL REMEMBER
THE TRAIL THEY TOOK

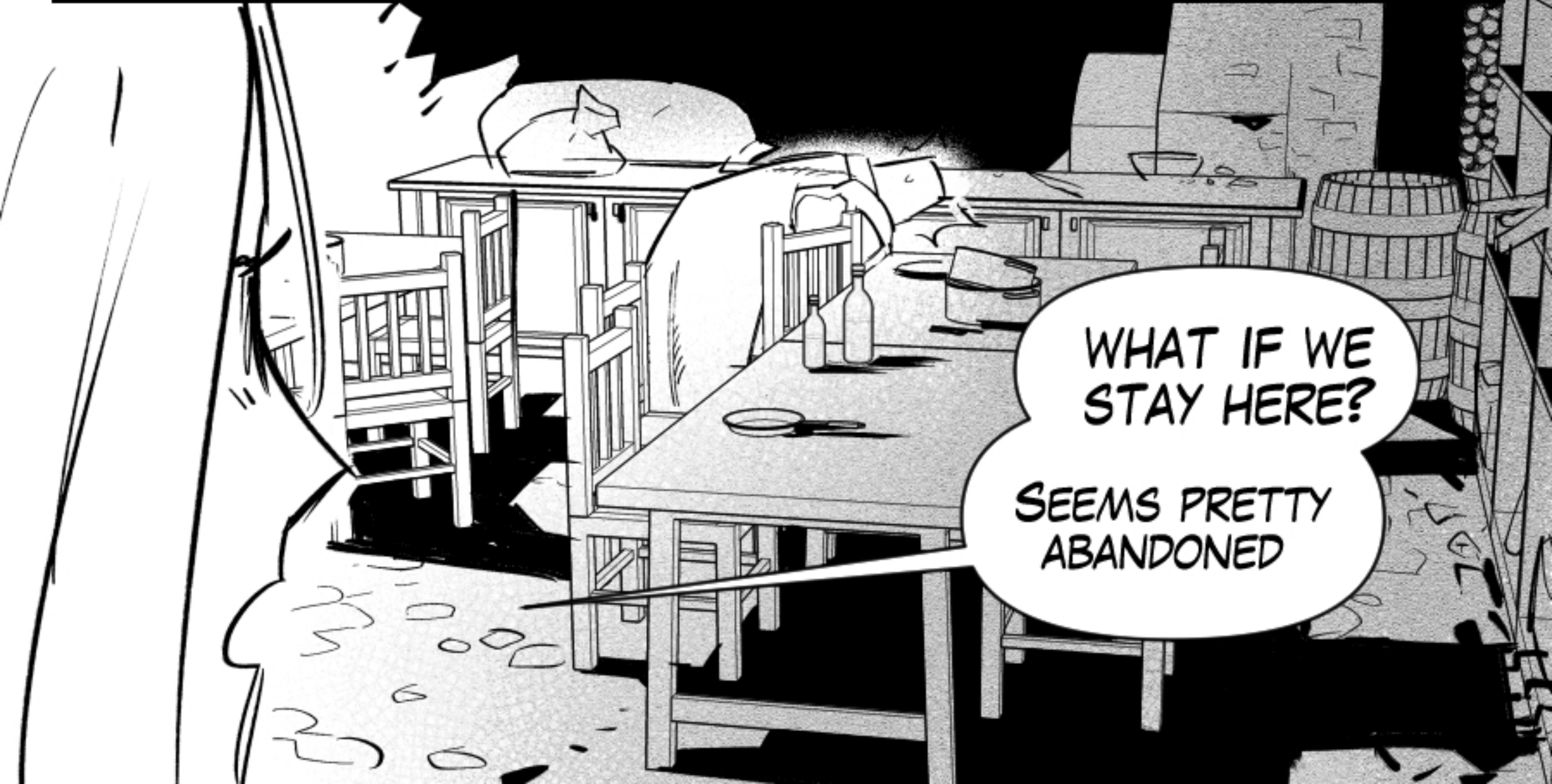
DO YOU THINK
THERE'S ANY FOOD
LEFT IN THE CASTLE?
I BET THERE IS.

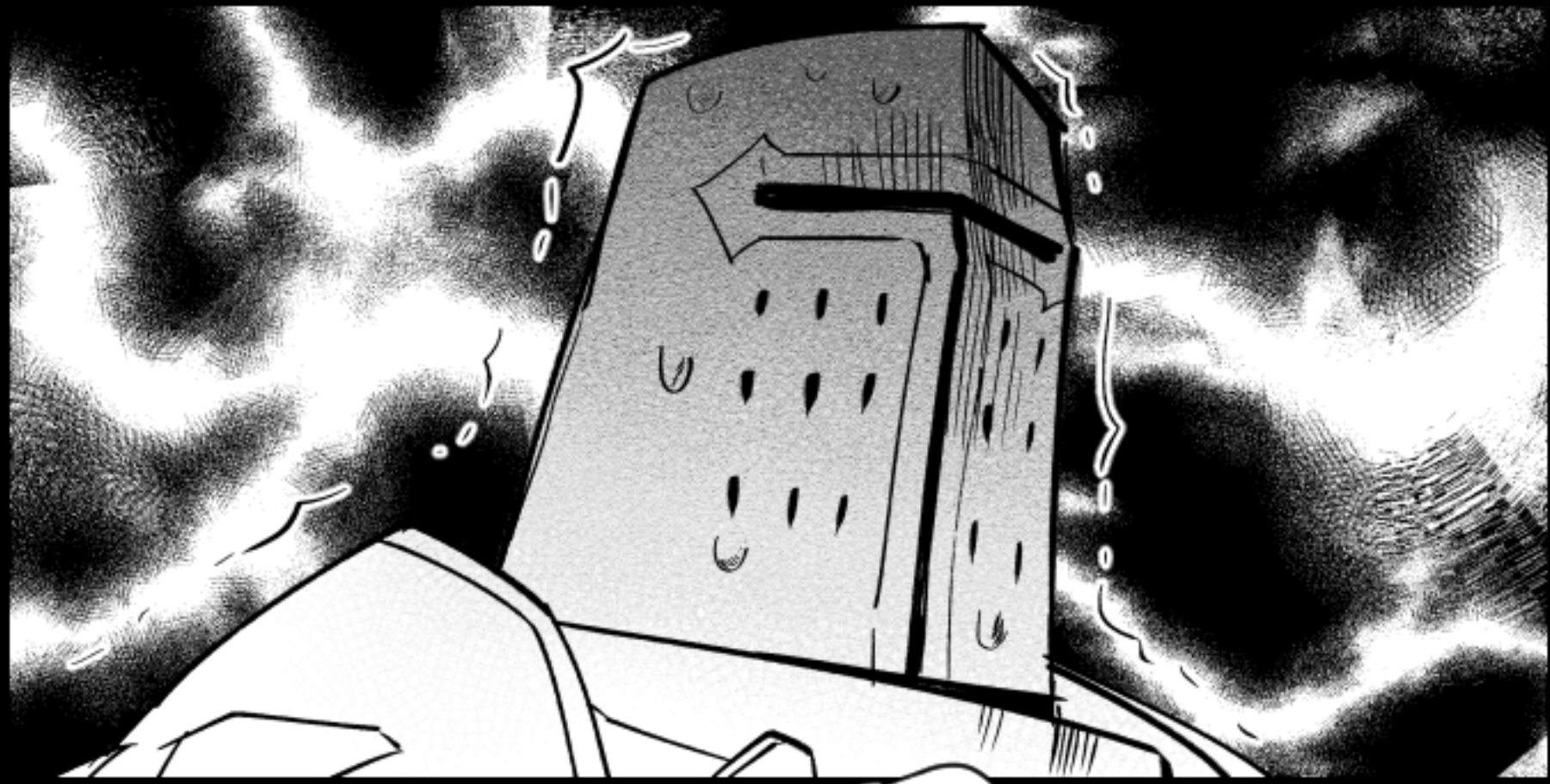
WE SHOULD TAKE
A LOOK!

UHM...
ALRIGHT
I GUESS











HEY RICARD.
THERE'S REALLY
NOTHING TO BE SEEN
OUT THERE...





WE COULD GO
UPSTAIRS TO
CHECK IF THEY
LEFT SOME
JEWELRY

DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT IT



NO ONE IS
GOING TO
ARREST US,
RICARD!

THOSE JEWELS
COULD REALLY
COME IN
HANDY FOR US



-SIGH-

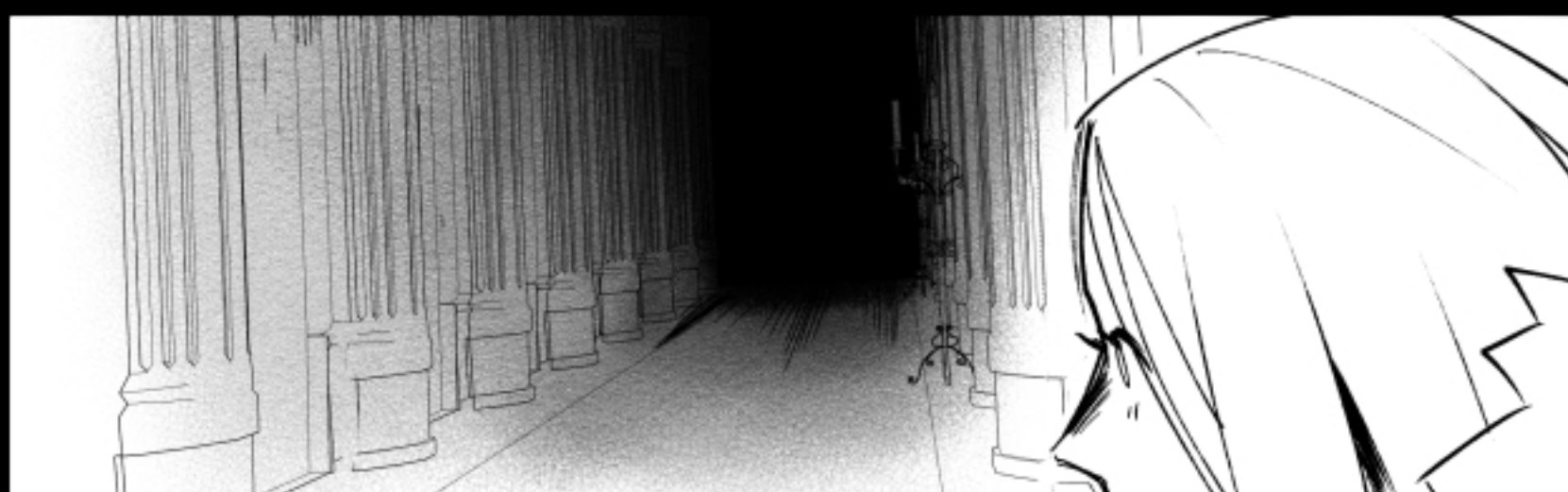
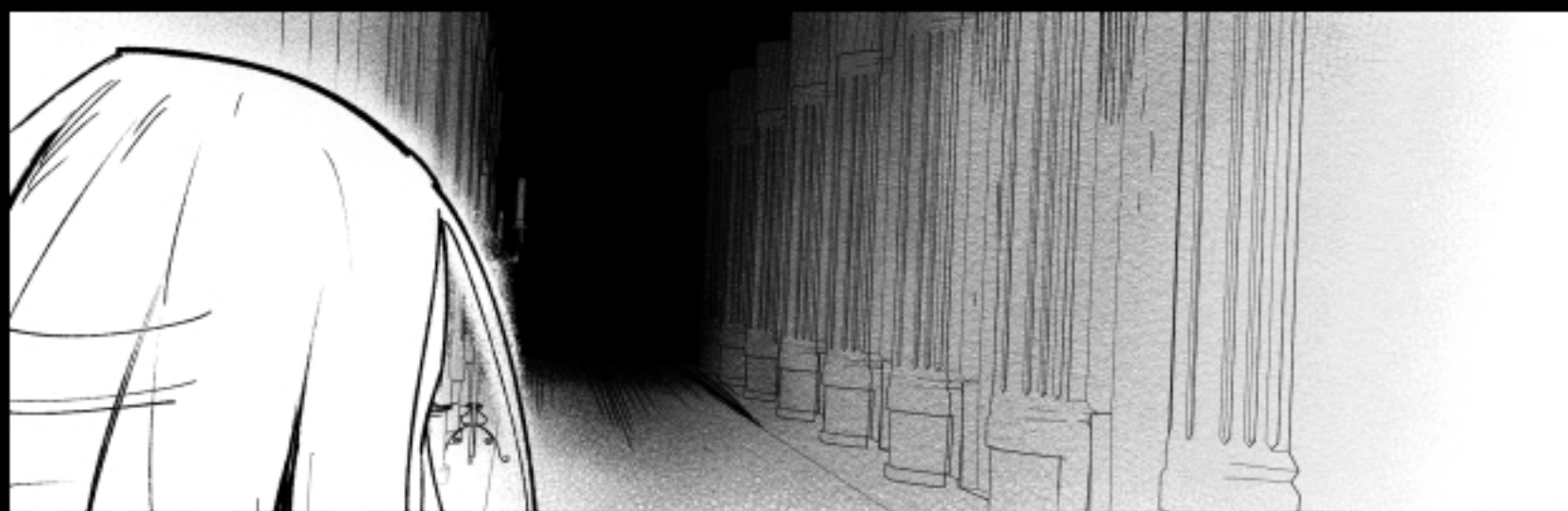


PRINCESS.

IT IS AGAINST
MY MORAL CODE
TO-



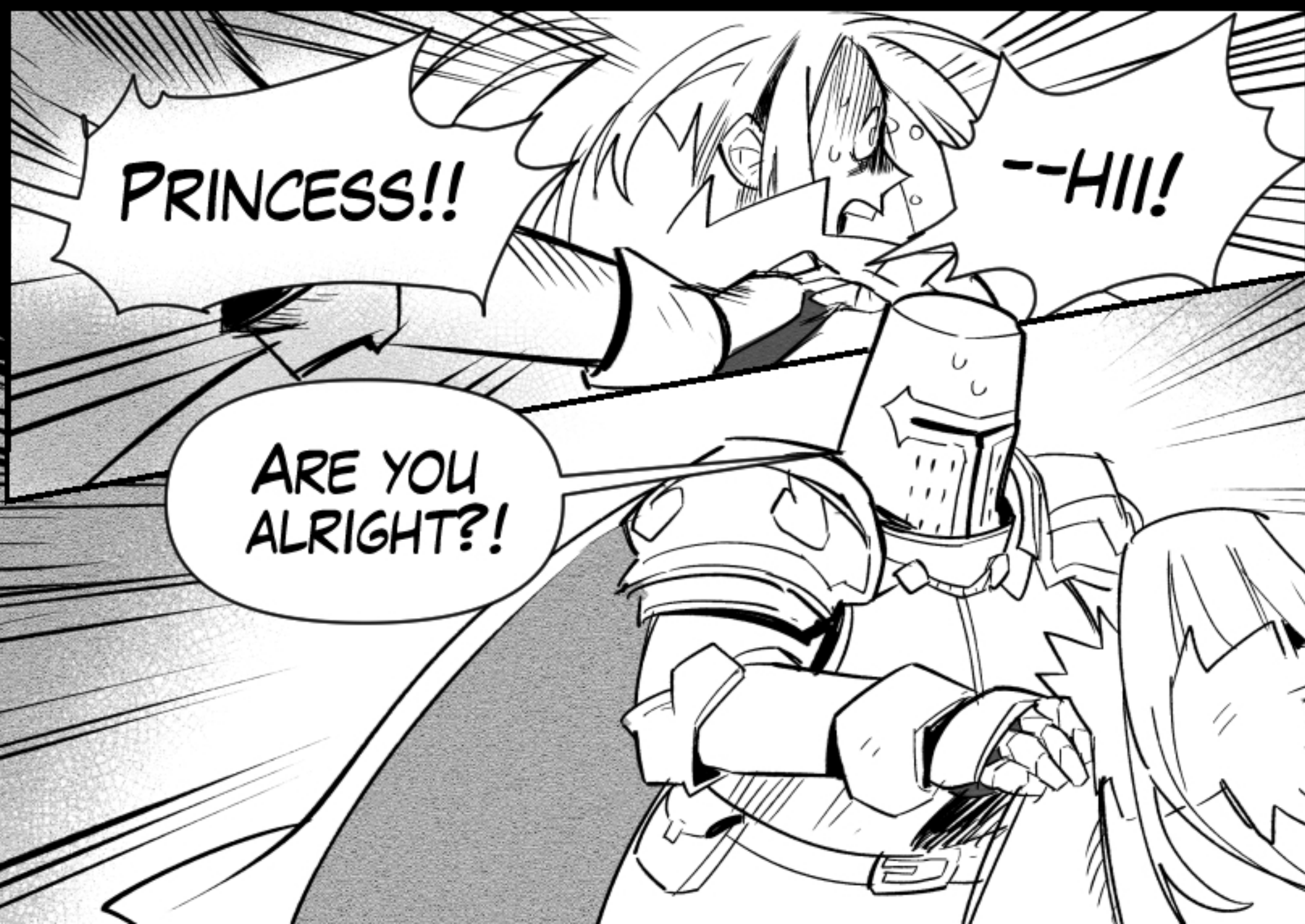
SHIT





HUH. IT IS
OPEN







DON'T GO
AWAY JUST
LIKE THAT-

YOU COULD HAVE
BEEN IN SERIOUS
DANGER!



YES



I'M SORRYYY,
RICAAARD



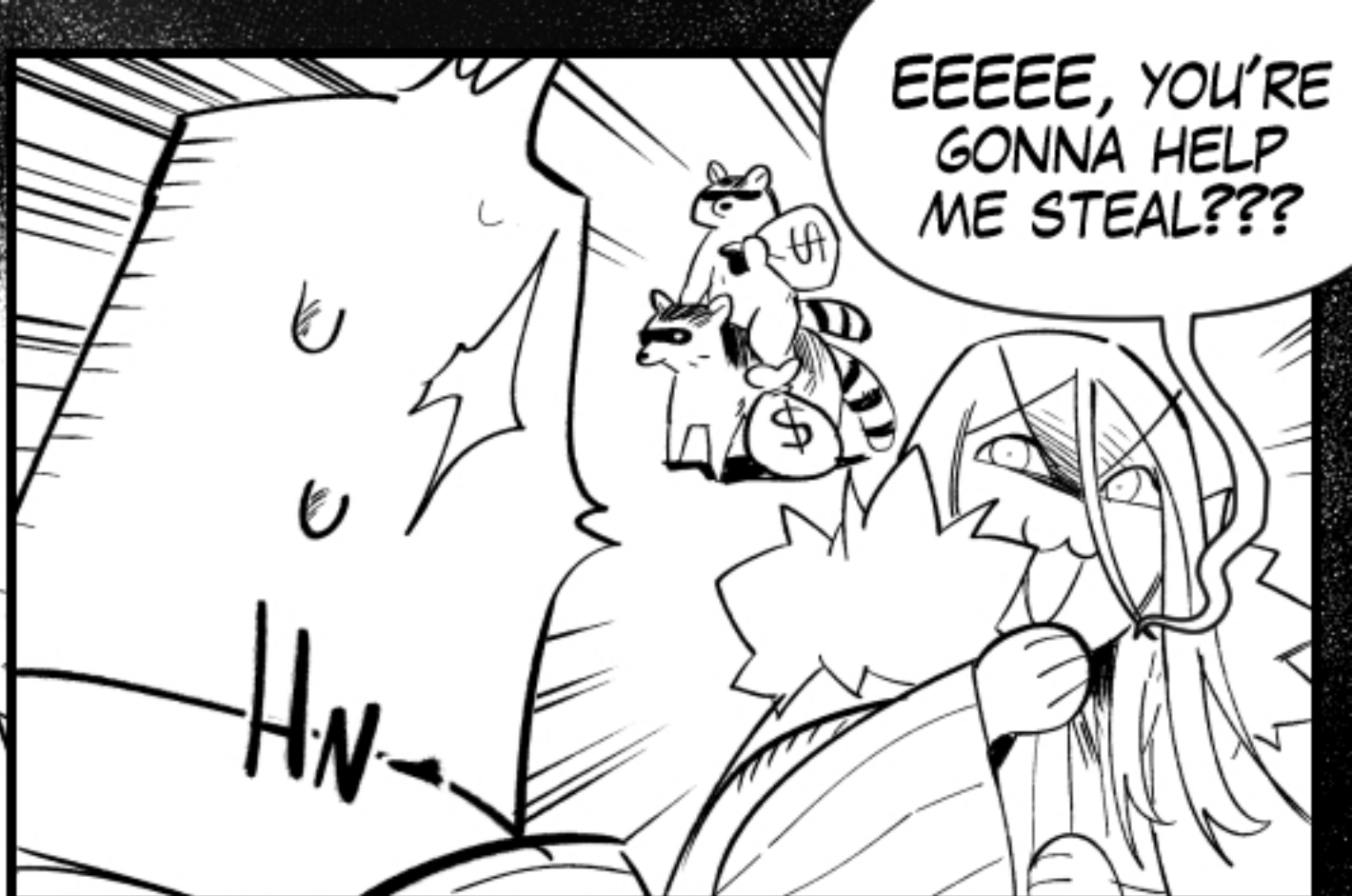
YOU'RE INVADING
MY PERSONAL
SPACE-

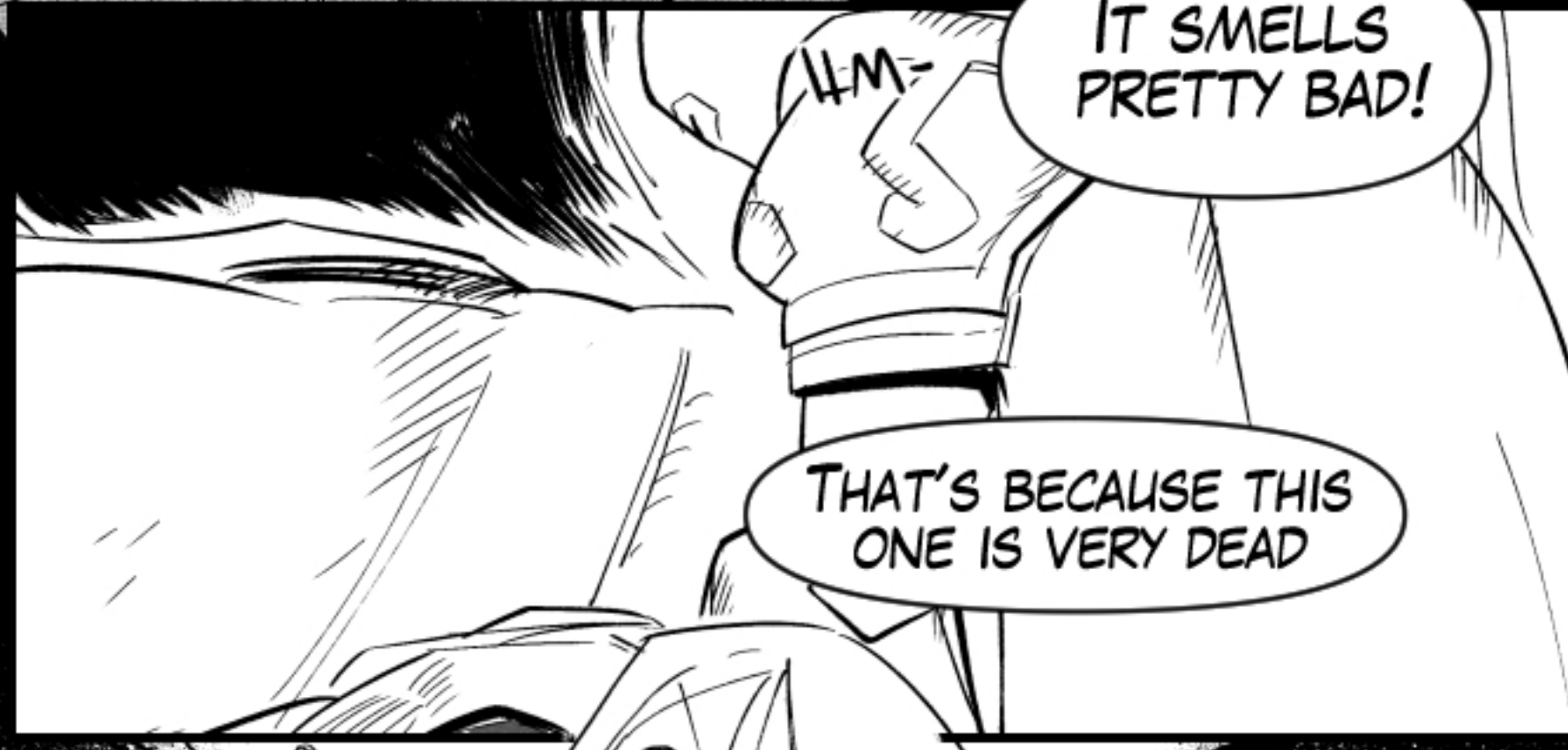


MY APOLOGIES,
PRINCESS.



Hahaha~



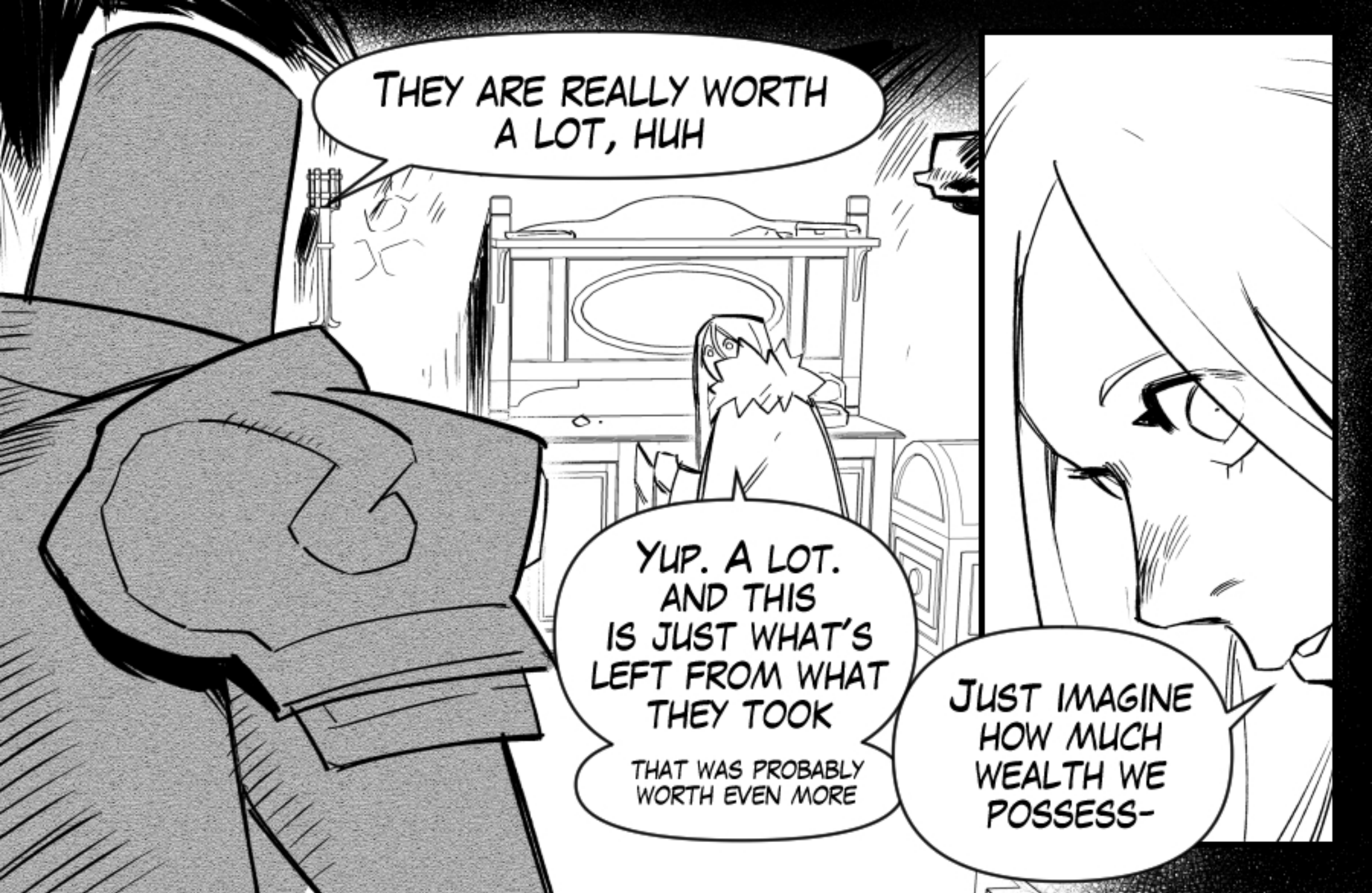


THAT'S BECAUSE THIS ONE IS VERY DEAD

WITH JUST SOME OF THESE, WE COULD ASSURE OURSELVES A DECENT LIFE IN ANY OTHER PLACE

I MEAN, IF THERE'S STILL SOMEONE LEFT





THEY ARE REALLY WORTH
A LOT, HUH

YUP. A LOT.
AND THIS
IS JUST WHAT'S
LEFT FROM WHAT
THEY TOOK

THAT WAS PROBABLY
WORTH EVEN MORE

JUST IMAGINE
HOW MUCH
WEALTH WE
POSSESS-



IT STILL
FEELS BAD
TO STEAL
FROM THE
ROYALTY,
THOUGH



IN FACT, IT SHOULDN'T
BE ME THE ONE WHO
IS EXCITED ABOUT THIS,
BUT YOU!

SO MANY YEARS OF YOU
LIVING UNDER THE
OPPRESSIVE HAND OF
THE WEALTHY WHO
CONTROLLED YOU...

AND STILL YOU
DON'T FEEL
THE SLIGHTEST
DESIRE TO
ROB THEM
FROM
ANYTHING?

UHM...



I'LL TELL YOU
ABOUT A STORY I READ
WHEN I WAS LITTLE

IT WAS ABOUT
A CLEVER MAN
WHO STOLE
FROM THE
RICH, TO THEN
GIVE THAT
WEALTH TO
THE POOR!

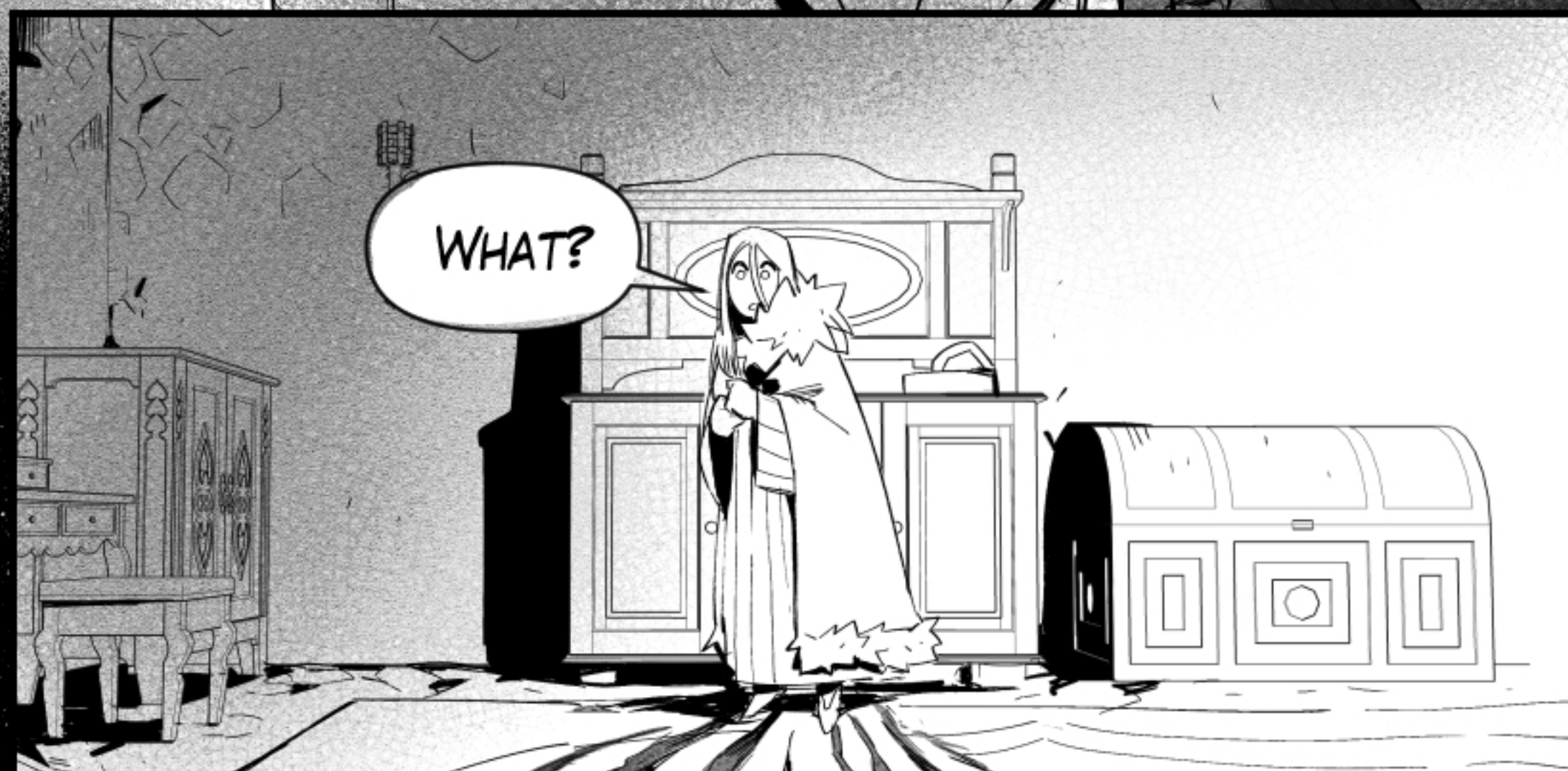
IN THAT TIME...
LITTLE HEGE DIDN'T
QUITE LIKE THE IDEA
OF BEING ROBBED...

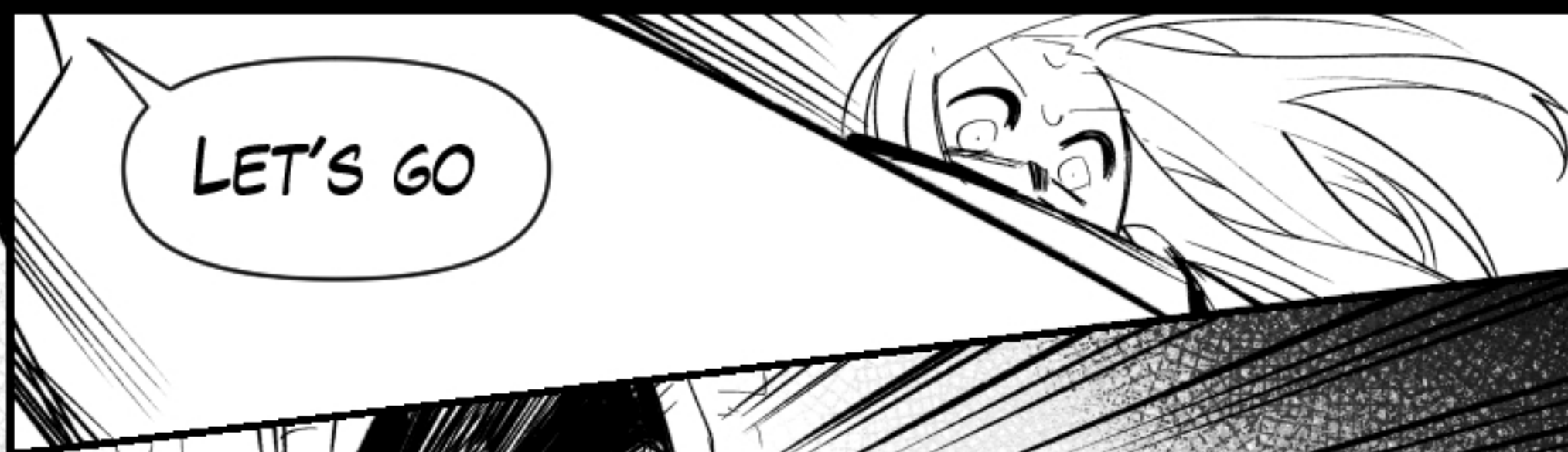
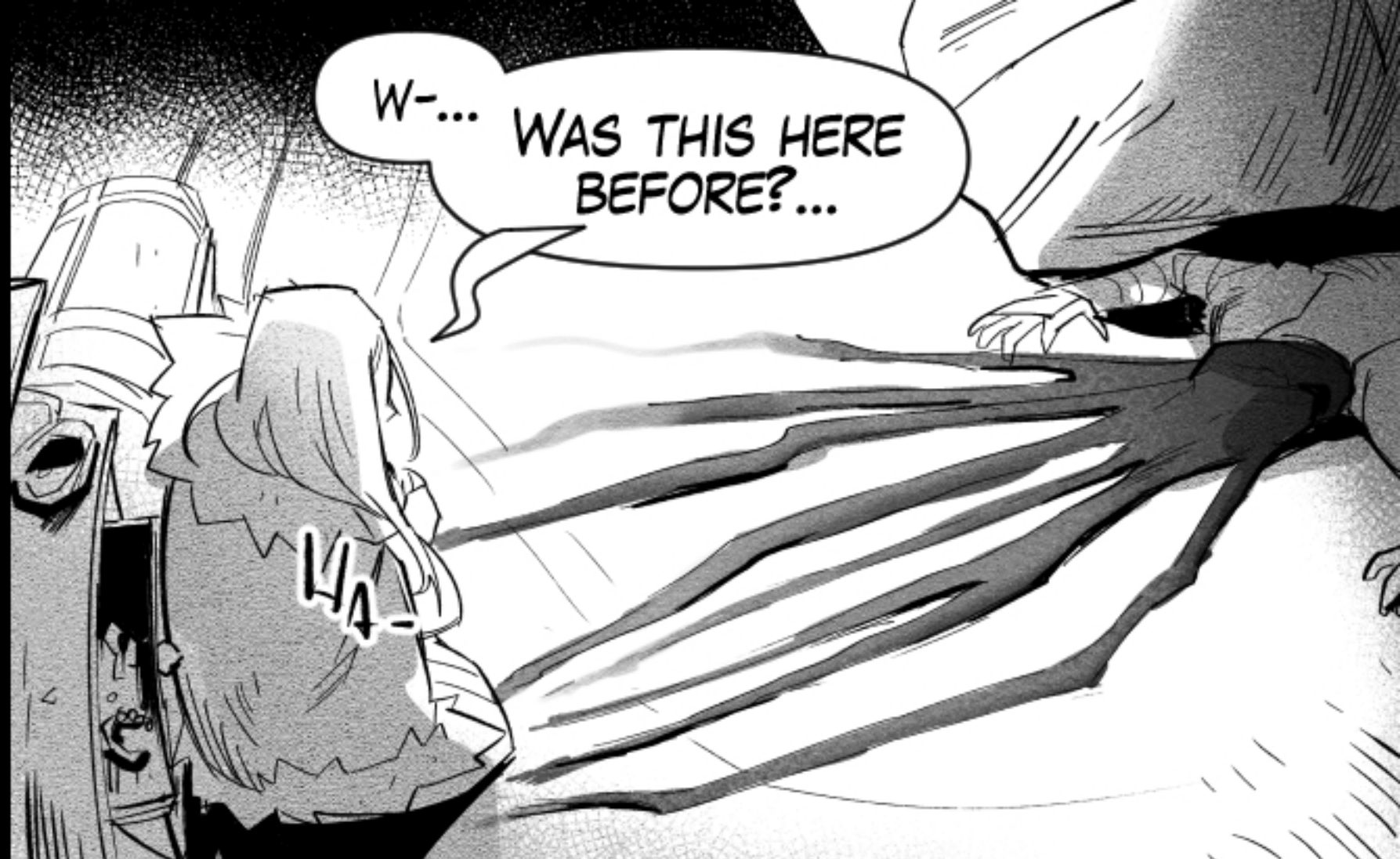
AND THEN HE WOULD
TAKE ME TO HIS
HUMBLE HOUSE IN
THE FOREST

FOR ME TO LIVE
FREE OF ANY
ROYAL DUTIES...

HOLDING HANDS
IN A FOREST FULL
OF FLOWERS

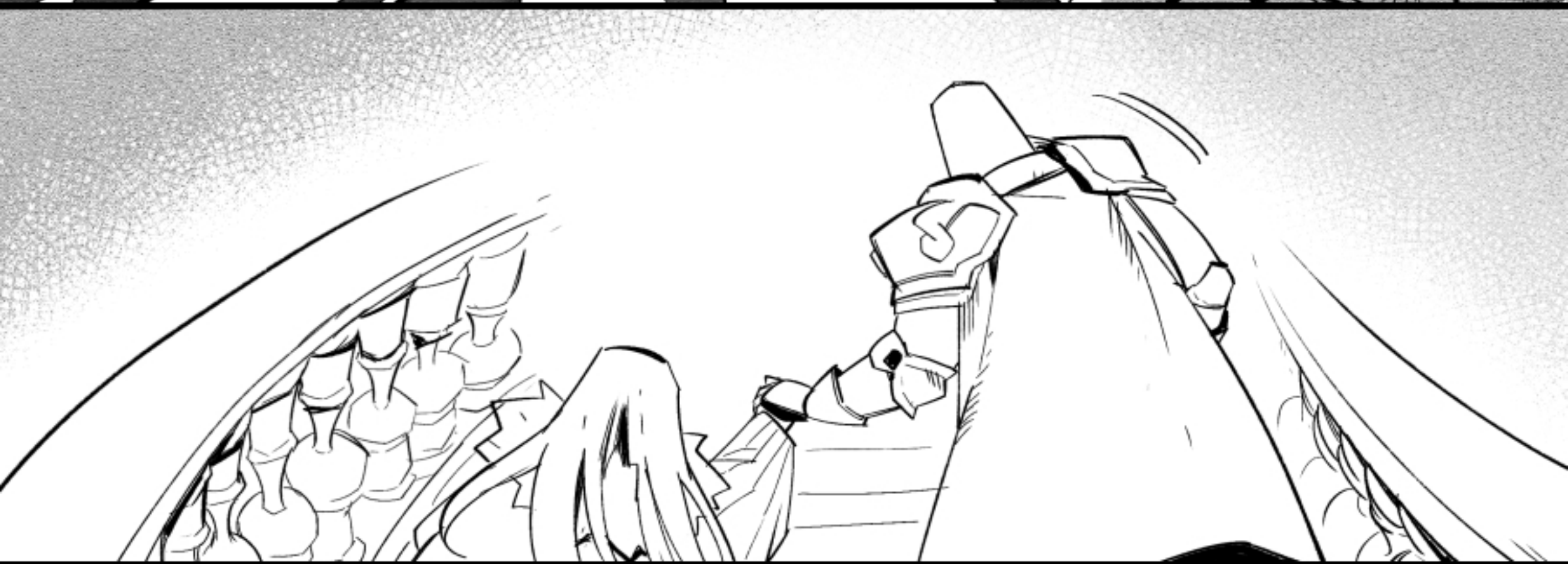
BUT I
DREAMT ABOUT
THE CONCEPT
OF THIS MAN
CLIMBING TO
MY WINDOW, AND
TAKING ME
AWAY FROM
THAT CASTLE





I DON'T KNOW... BUT I NEVER SAW SOMETHING
LIKE THAT BEFORE

AND I DIDN'T
WANT TO SEE
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF IT
REACHED YOU-

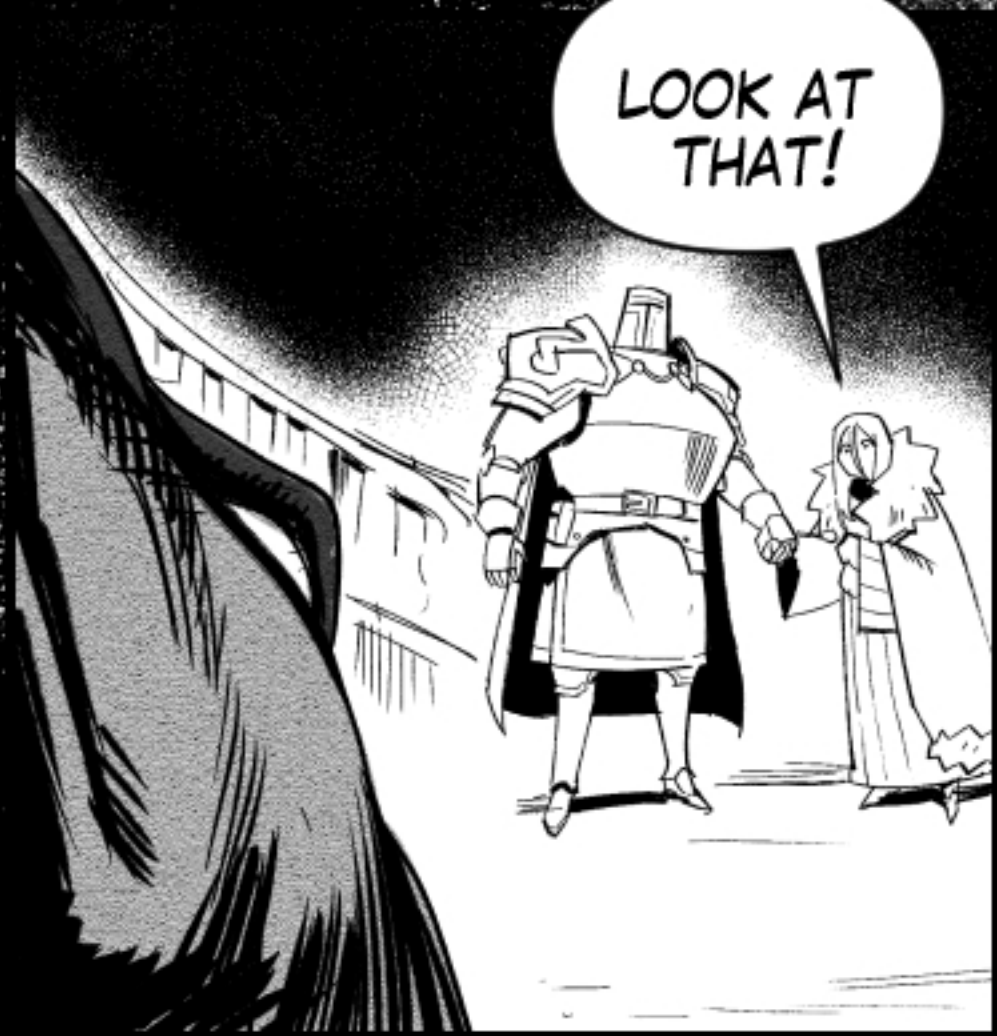


BUGH!





WAIT, RICARD!



LOOK AT THAT!



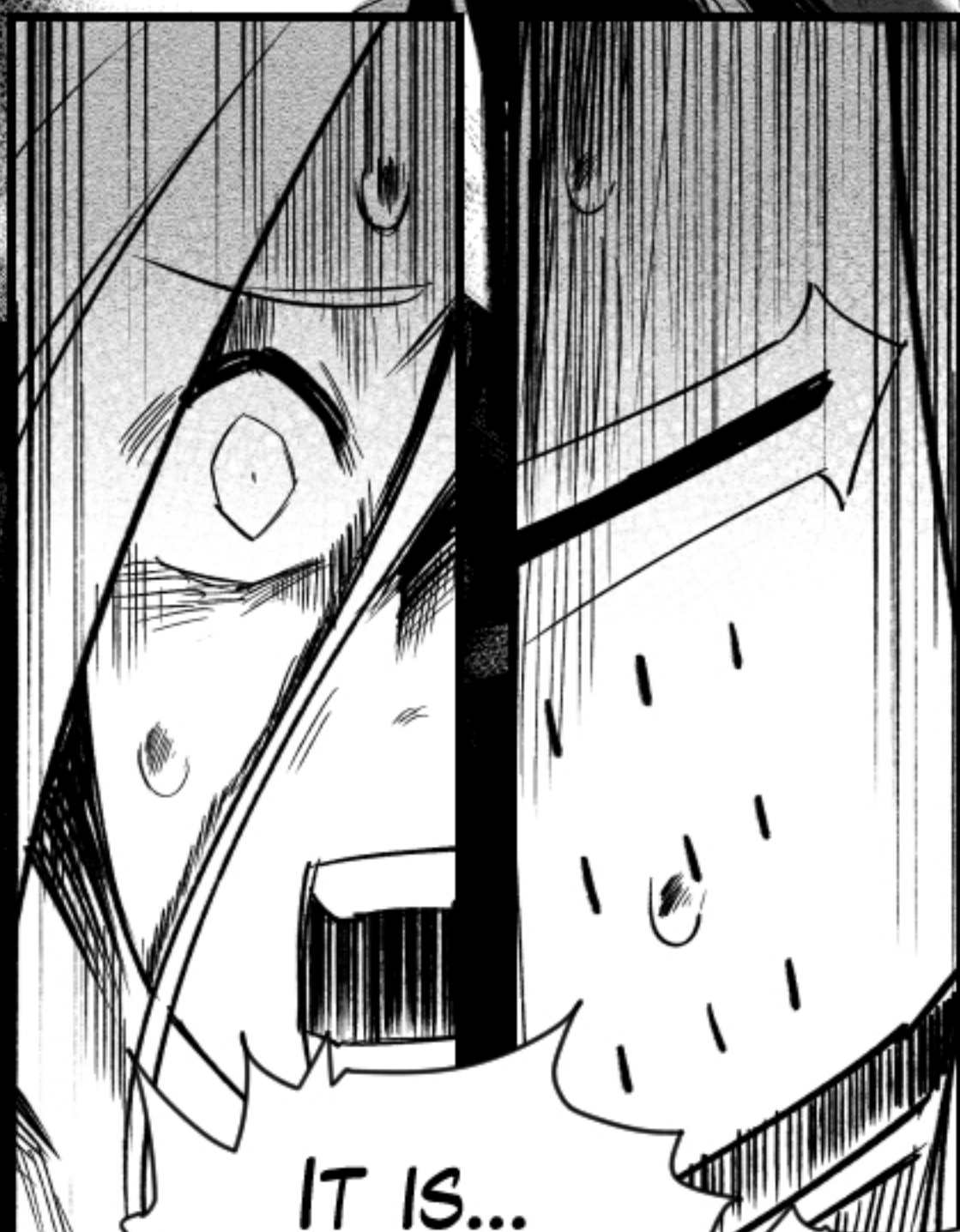
PRINCESS- THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS.



WE HAVE TO GO NOW!

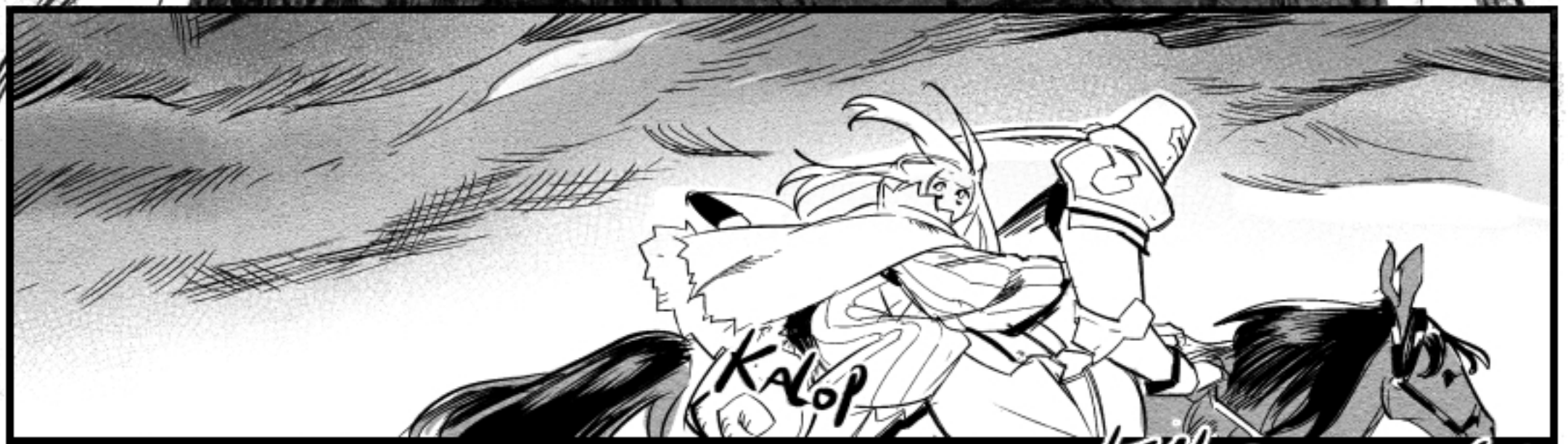


ISN'T THAT... THE CORPSE WE SAW WHEN WE ESCAPED?...



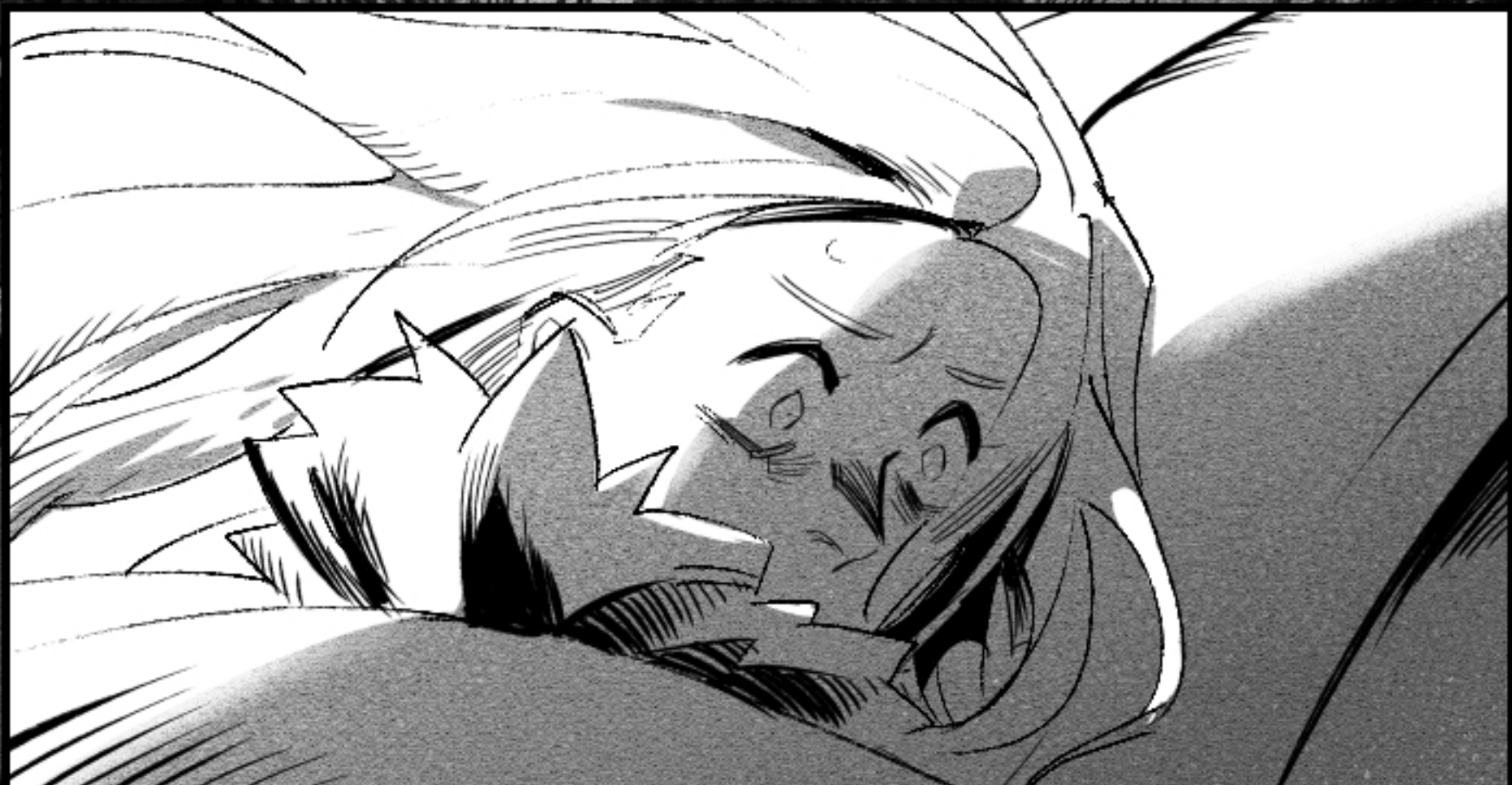
IT IS...
STANDING UP
AGAIN??!

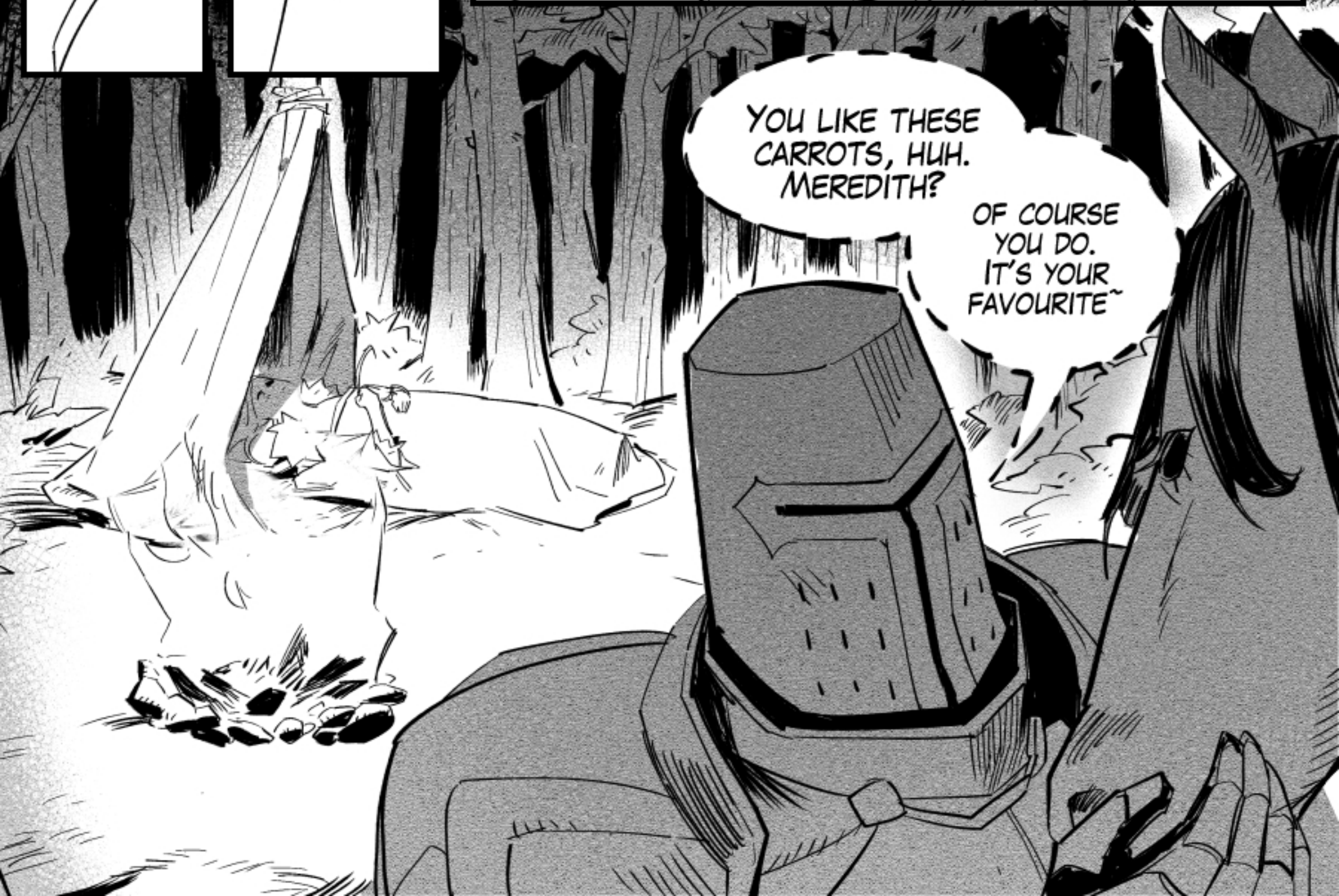
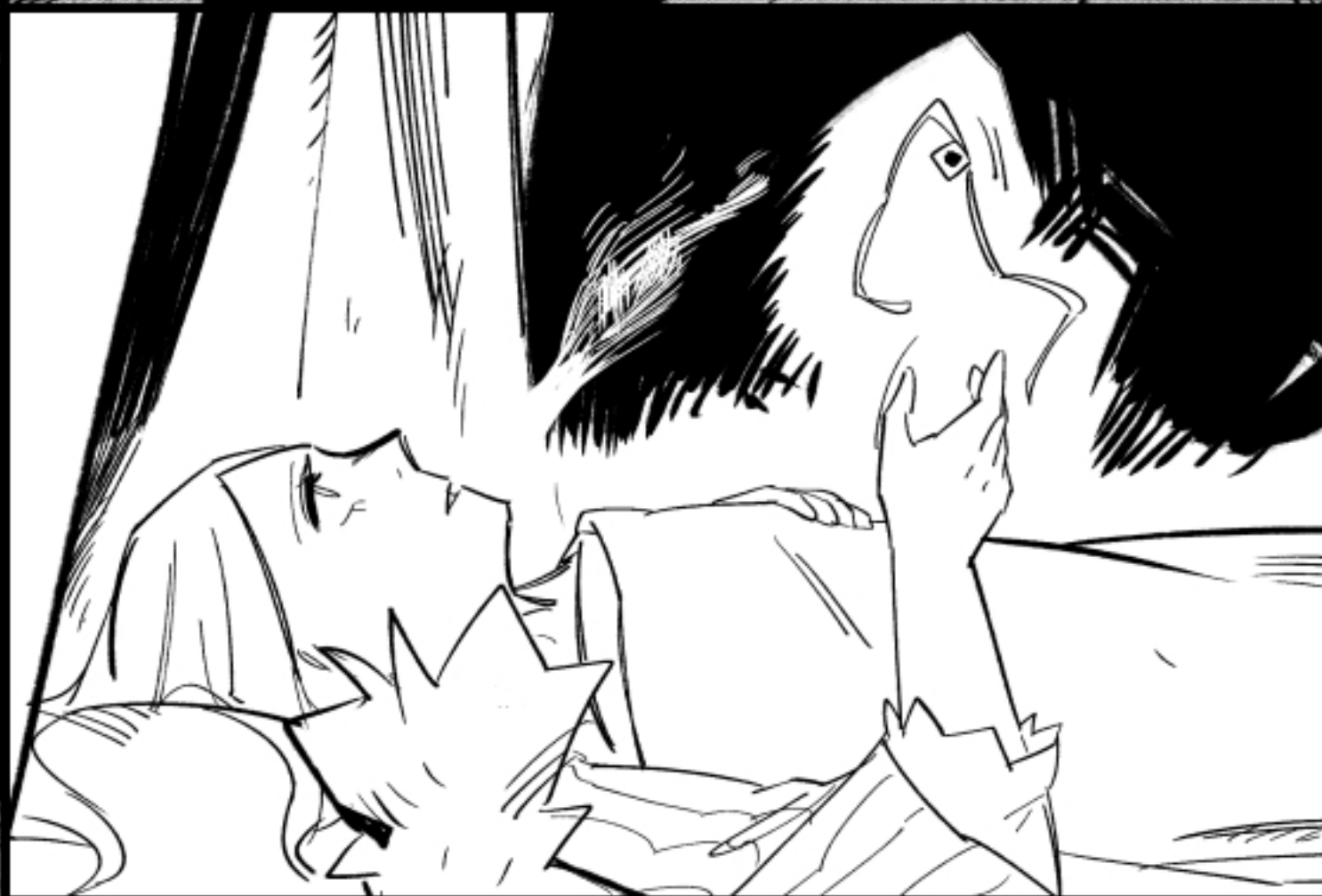
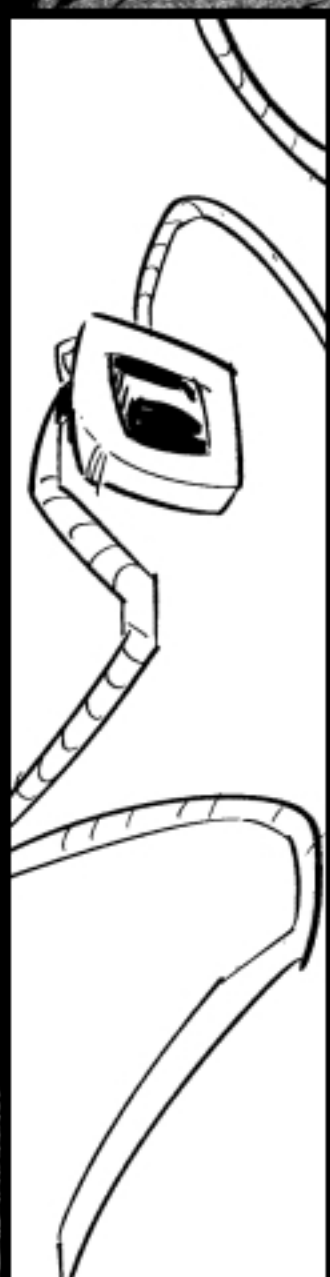
THAT WAS A
DEAD HUMAN!!



KALOP

Klop-





YOU LIKE THESE
CARROTS, HUH.
MEREDITH?

OF COURSE
YOU DO.
IT'S YOUR
FAVOURITE~



TODAY IS COLDER
THAN PAST DAYS.
I GOTTA ADMIT IT.

IT IS,
ACTUALLY.

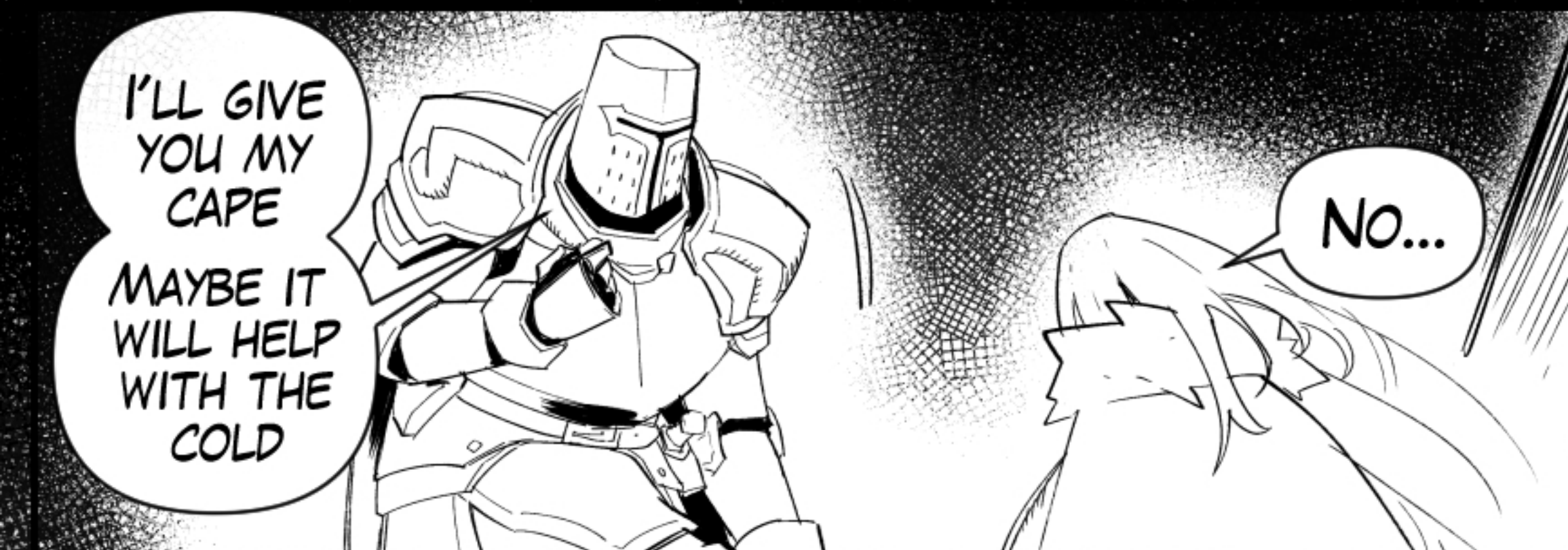
CAN'T
SLEEP?



IT IS
DIFFICULT
WITH ALL
THIS COLD.

AND I STILL
HAVE THE
FACE OF
THAT
CREATURE
STUCK ON
MY MIND

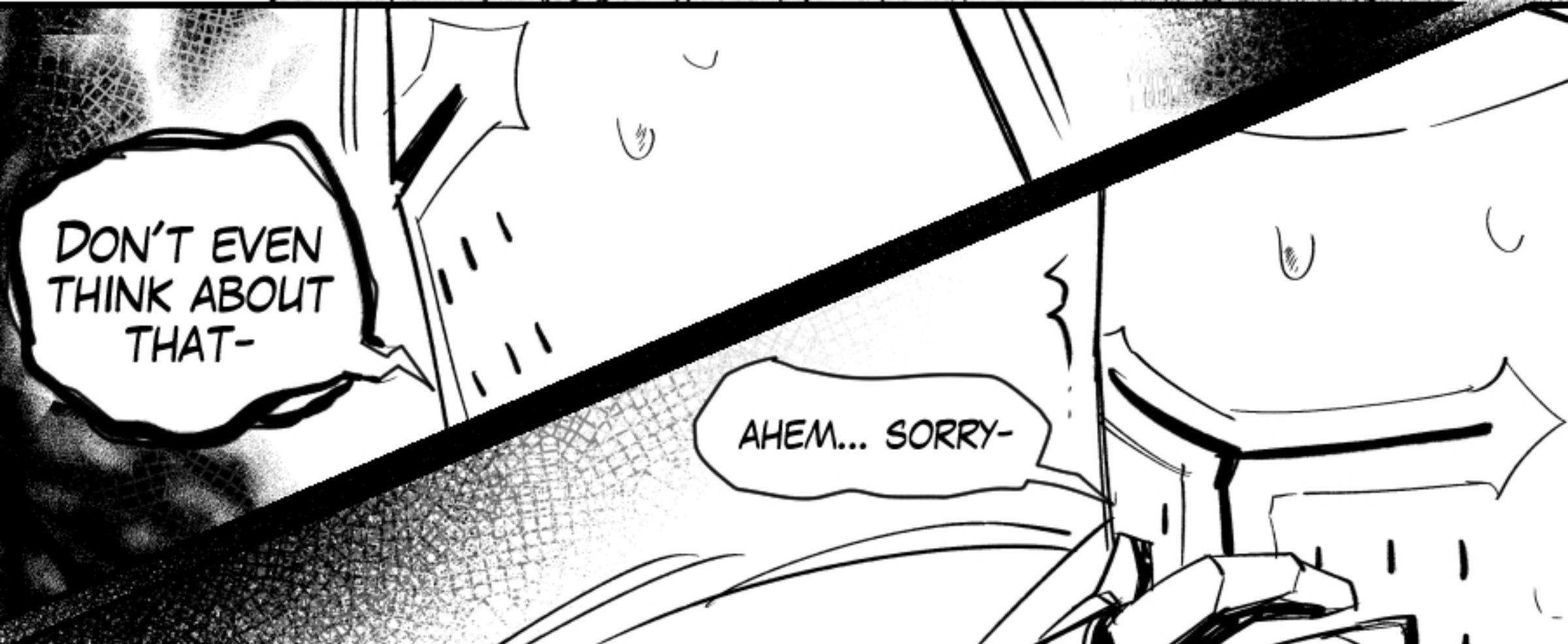






I THINK...

WE SHOULD
SLEEP TOGETHER



DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT
THAT-

AHEM... SORRY-



I DON'T WANT
YOU TO BECOME
..ONE OF THOSE!

YOU NEED
TO BE WARM!

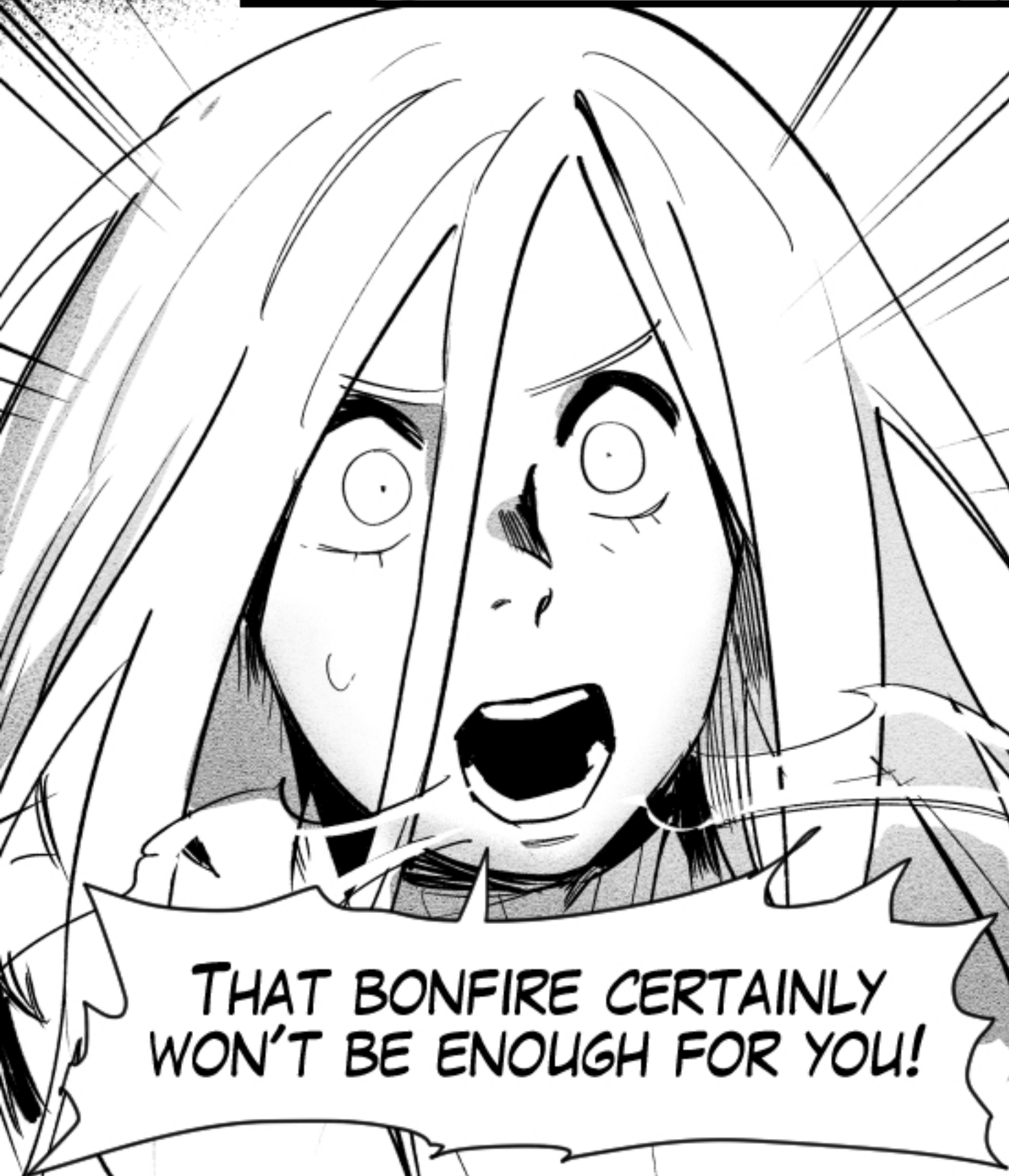


PRINCESS...
DON'T WORRY

I'LL STAY
CLOSE TO
THE

I'M STILL
WORRIED!!

IF THAT BONFIRE,
PLUS WHAT I'M
WEARING, IS
NOT ENOUGH
FOR ME-



THAT BONFIRE CERTAINLY
WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR YOU!



...
IT WILL BE.
DON'T WORRY

A close-up of a hand in a white glove holding a sword. The hand is positioned as if offering the sword.

COME,
I'LL LEND
YOU MY CAPE

A close-up of a hand in a white glove holding a sword. The hand is positioned as if offering the sword.

RICARD

A girl with long blonde hair is looking up with a worried expression. She is wearing a white cape.

IF YOU STAY LIKE
THIS, YOU WILL
BE COLD

A girl with long blonde hair is looking up with a worried expression. She is wearing a white cape.

IF I ONLY KEEP
THIS, I WILL BE COLD.

A close-up of a girl's face with a shocked expression. Her eyes are wide open, and her mouth is slightly open.

YOU CAN'T

A close-up of a girl's face with a shocked expression. Her eyes are wide open, and her mouth is slightly open.

BE COLD!



IT IS THE ONLY
OPTION WE
HAVE, RICARD!!

THERE'S NO ILL
INTENT!

IT IS ONLY SO
WE CAN BE WARMER!

HERESY-

IT IS ONLY
HUMAN!!

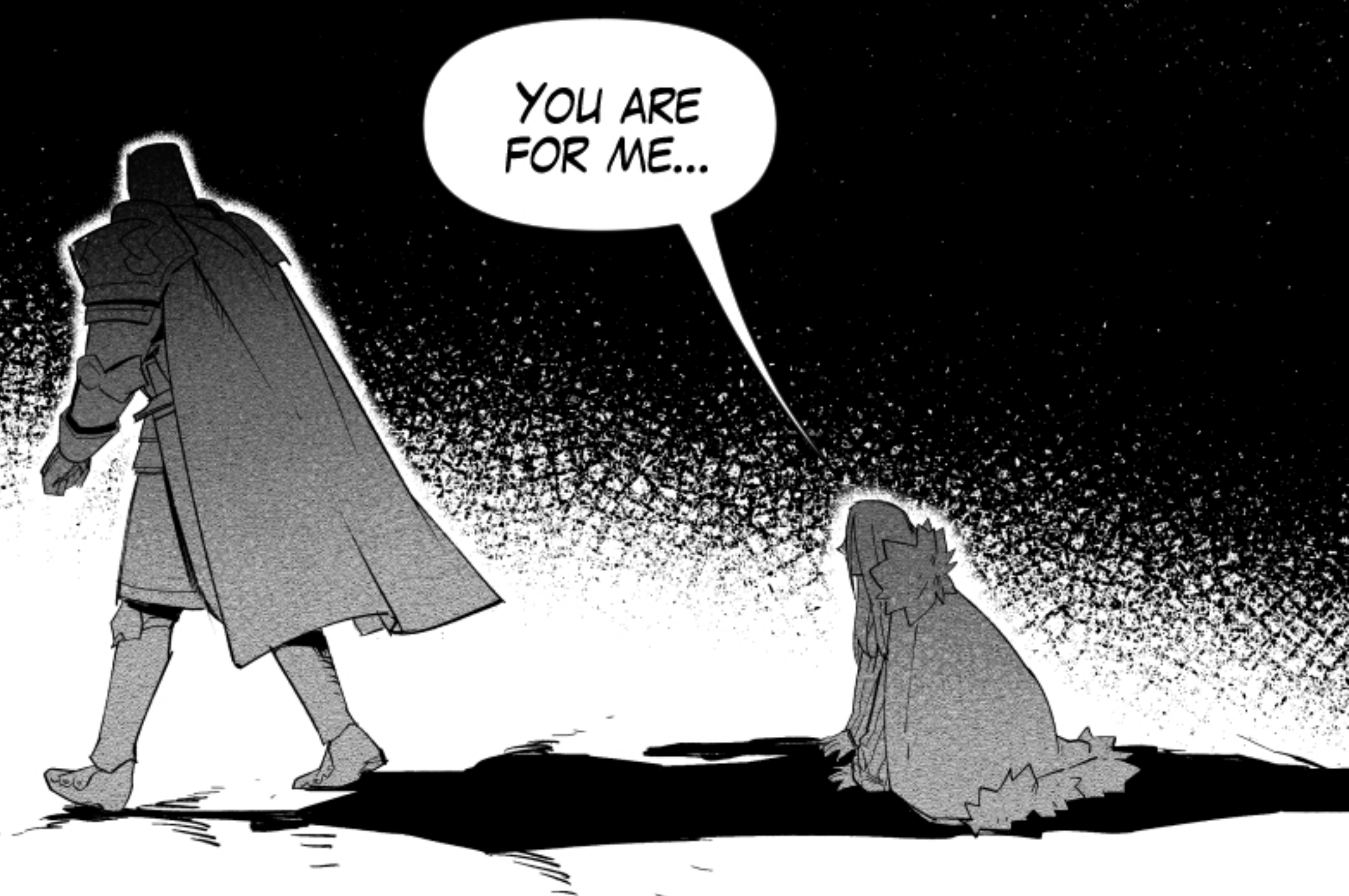
I AM NOT
A HUMAN

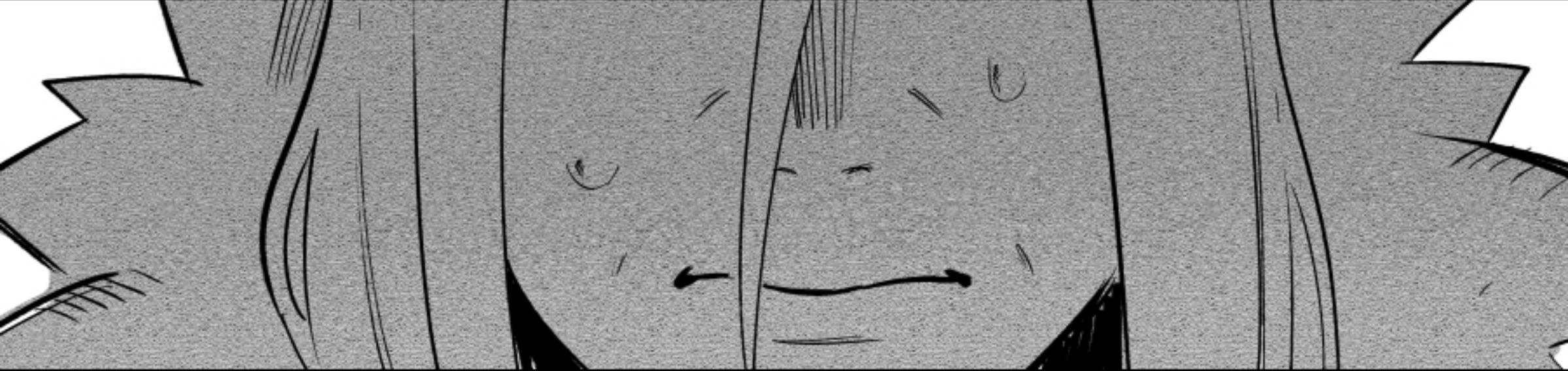




MY APOLOGIES.

LET ME KNOW
IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING ELSE







SOB
SOB



IT IS FOR
HER OWN
GOOD.



I'M NO
HUMAN



I'M A CREATURE
MADE OF TRASH

